

W. H. K.

Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

**Rural District Council
of Salisbury.**

For the Year ending Dec. 31st, 1913.

REPORT.



GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year, 1913.

Physical features and general character of the District.

The District is of considerable extent, the area being 56,990 acres (exclusive of area covered by water). The country is undulating in character, with breezy downs and well-watered valleys.

The soil is chiefly composed of gravel and chalk, subsoil chalk, throughout the district, variations occurring in the following parishes:—

Alderbury, Clarendon, Landford and Nomansland—*Soil*, gravel, *subsoil*, gravel and sand.

Laverstock and Britford—Soft light loam, *subsoil* chalk.

West Dean, East Grimstead and Winterslow—*Soil*, chalk and clay, *subsoil* chalk.

Downton—*Soil*, soft alluvial, chalk and gravel, *subsoil* chalk.

Whiteparish—*Soil* chalk, sand and gravel, *subsoil* chalk.

The chief occupations of the residents are those concerned with agriculture. There are no specially dangerous trades in the district.

The amount expended in Poor Law relief in the District during the year was £1,197 5s.

Population	...	...	10,178
Inhabited houses	...	...	2,678
Average number of persons per house			3·8

Water Supply.

The water supply is chiefly derived from wells, mostly shallow, and in cases where the well covers are defective, liable

to pollution. The deep wells afford a supply of excellent water. Lord Radnor's private reservoir now supplies Alderbury, Nunton, Bodenham, Odstock and West Grimstead with a constant supply of good water. At Farley there is a supply of water from a private reservoir, provided by the late owner of the estate. Some of the wells at Downton and Morgan's Vale were found to be contaminated. A special committee was appointed by the Council to consider and remedy the defects found, and certain of the wells have been cleaned and repaired.

River Pollution.

A complaint was made by a number of Downton residents regarding the stream near the Tannery at Downton. This matter was investigated, and the owners of the Tannery have promised to prevent any source of contamination which might arise from work carried on at the Tannery.

Drainage and Sewerage.

There is no system of sewerage in any part of the District. Household slops and waste water are dealt with by means of cess-pools. Solid excreta are dealt with by earth closets, pail closets and privies with vaults. All these are apt to cause nuisance at times. Undoubtedly the least objectionable is the pail closet. Whilst carrying out inspection under the Housing Act, it was found that the privies with vaults were in some cases unsatisfactory, not having been cleaned out for a number of years. There is no system of scavenging, and the onus of removal rests with the occupier. At Downton, the sanitary conditions are unsatisfactory, and the water in some of the wells is unfit for drinking purposes. The Special Committee, referred to above, has the matter under consideration.

Schools.

The school accommodation is good, and there are few complaints. The sanitary condition of the schools is good, and water supply satisfactory. Any cases of infectious or contagious diseases are reported to the Medical Officer of Health and the School Medical Officer, and necessary steps are taken to prevent the spread of infection. The following diseases were reported to the Medical Officer of Health from the Teachers, occurring amongst the school children :—

- 1 case of Scarlet Fever.
- 4 cases of Diphtheria.
- 21 cases of Whooping Cough.

10 cases of Chicken Pox.
 1 case of Ringworm.
 8 cases of Impetigo.

No schools have been closed during the year on account of illness.

Milk.

The milk supply of the District is produced wholly within the area of the District, and large quantities are exported from the District by rail.

Bye-laws under the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, 1886, and the Dairies, Milk Shops and Cowsheds Order, 1885, are in force, and are rigidly carried out.

Ninety-eight Dairies are registered, sixty of these have been inspected by your Sanitary Inspector, and with the exception of seven were found satisfactory. Of these seven, two required structural alteration, which has been done. Five needed white-washing, which has been done.

The purity of the water supply to the premises of those engaged in the milk trade is most important, and has received attention. Sixty-seven are supplied from wells, and thirty-three obtain their water from private supplies.

It is important that milkers should be provided with white overalls or aprons, soap and clean water in all dairies, as infection from the hands of milkers can only too easily be transmitted to milk. Milkens' hands should be scrupulously clean.

Infectious Diseases.

The Salisbury and District Joint Isolation Hospital, provided for the Amesbury, Salisbury and Wilton districts, was opened on the 12th October, 1912. This Hospital provides suitable accommodation for Infectious Diseases in the District, and contains 44 beds.

Twenty-nine cases from the District were admitted into the Hospital during the year.

Thirty-eight cases of infectious disease have been notified during the year :—

Diphtheria	...	...	23
Scarlet Fever	...	...	6
Erysipelas	...	...	1
Tuberculosis (pulmonary)	...	...	7
Do. (glands)	...	...	1

They were distributed in the District as follows :—

	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Tuberculosis.	Erysipelas.
Downton	10	...	1	...
Laverstock	...	1	...	...
Landford	2	1	1	...
Standlynch	1	...	...	...
Redlynch	10	...	2	...
West Harnham	...	4	...	...
Winterslow	...	...	...	1
Britford	...	...	1	...
Whaddon	...	...	1	...
Whiteparish	...	...	1	...
	—	—	—	—
	23	6	8	1

Diphtheria.

Twenty-three cases have occurred in the District during the year. Ten of these cases occurred at Downton, and ten at Redlynch. The remaining three were isolated cases, which occurred at Landford and Standlynch respectively.

Of the Downton cases, eight were notified between Oct. 9th and Oct. 16th, from water-side cottages, six occurring in one house; in these cases the infection was spread by contact, the sanitary condition of these cottages was favourable to the spread of infection. The other two Downton cases were from the Borough, Downton, and were notified in April and July.

Redlynch cases.—First case notified on 22nd June, next on 27th June. These cases were, I think, due to a carrier case, which was detected.

In July, August, and September, seven more cases were notified. Five were from one family, and the circumstances point to the remaining cases being due to the same source of infection (probably contact with a previous case).

Scarlet Fever.

Six cases only were notified during the year. Four of these were from West Harnham, and notified, one in January, one in February, one in September, and one in December. There does not seem to be any connection between these cases.

Tuberculosis Cases.

Eight cases were notified during the year. All were pulmonary tuberculosis with the exception of one case of tuberculous cervical glands. This case received treatment at

the Salisbury Infirmary. Seven of these cases I have visited. Enquiries are made as to family history and occupation, etc., the general conditions and surroundings noted, and advice given as to the means of preventing infection. Spitting flasks and disinfectants are provided when necessary.

All cases are now reported to the County Tuberculosis Officer, and through whom, arrangements are made for the treatment most suitable for each individual case. Three of the cases notified have died.

One case has received treatment at the Winsley Sanatorium, and has returned home in good health. Another case is undergoing open-air treatment at his own home in a shelter provided by the County Council. One case is at present in the Winsley Sanatorium. One case of advanced type is being attended at his cottage.

There were nine cases of tuberculosis notified in 1912. Six of these cases are dead. The remaining three are apparently in good health, and following their occupations.

There is no Sanatorium in the District for the treatment of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Sanitary Inspections of District.

There are ten slaughter-houses. These have been inspected by the Sanitary Inspector and found satisfactory. Three required cleansing. No tuberculous carcase has been found.

Twenty-four bakehouses have been inspected by the Sanitary Inspector and found satisfactory. Some minor defects have required attention.

Infectious Diseases.

Cases enquired into	...	...	22
Houses disinfected	...	...	18

Houses.

Number erected	...	...	22
Number cleansed and whitewashed			7
Privies rectified	...	...	2
Offensive Trades inspection		...	6
Wells closed as polluted	...	...	0
Samples for analysis	...	...	9
Condemned	...	...	7

Slaughter Houses.

Number regularly inspected	...	10
Number certified for limewashing	...	3

Dairies, Cowsheds, etc.

Number of Inspections	...	...	60
During milking time	...	...	15
Requiring structural alterations	...	...	2

Clerical Work.

Number of Statutory Notices served			0
Do.	do.	complied with	0
Do.	Informal Notices served		60
Do.	do.	complied with	55
Do.	do.	outstanding	5

Nuisances.

Various complaints of nuisances were inspected and remedied. No case has required legal action.

Housing.

The house accommodation is fairly good ; there is a demand for new houses in some parts of the District. The Council's building bye-laws are in force, and are carried out.

One hundred and thirty-nine houses have been inspected by the Sanitary Inspector. The defects found are being dealt with. The greater number of these defects have been remedied, the remainder are being carried out. The general condition of houses inspected was fairly satisfactory. Many I have personally inspected with the Sanitary Inspector. During the year 2 cases of overcrowding have been reported.

In one case, the overcrowding has been abated. The other case is being dealt with by the Council at the present time.

I append a table by the Sanitary Inspector, showing the result of inspections made during the year, and the conditions that were found present.

WILTS COUNTY COUNCIL.

Table of Information required under the provisions of the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, for the period 1st January, 1913, to 31st December, 1913.

Total number of houses reported to Council as dangerous or unfit for occupation ...	2
Total number of houses which have been actually closed without service of Formal Closing Orders under Sec. 17 ...	2
Total number of houses in respect to which Closing Orders have been served ...	0
Total number of houses actually closed under such Orders ...	0
Total number of houses that have been rendered fit for occupation after service of Closing Orders ...	0
Total number of houses that have been rendered fit for occupation after Informal Notices ...	0
Total number of houses where Closing Orders have become operative, and are still awaiting repairs ...	0
Total number of houses for which "demolition" orders have been issued ..	0
Total number of houses actually "demolished" with or without demolition orders ...	0
Total number of houses suitable for occupation by the Working Classes which have been completed and ready for occupation, or first occupied, since 1st January, 1913, to 31st December, 1913 ...	22
Total number of houses now in course of erection, but not completed on 31st December, 1913	2

(Signed) A. METHERELL,

Salisbury Rural District Council.

SALISBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

*Extract from the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations,
1910. (September 2nd.)*

ARTICLE V.—The Medical Officer of Health shall include in his Annual Report information and particulars in tabular form in regard to :—

The number of dwelling houses inspected under and for the purposes of Section 17 of the Act of 1909. 	139
The number of dwelling houses which on inspection were considered to be in a state so danger- ous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 	2
The number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of Closing Orders 	0
The number of Closing Orders made 	0
The number of dwelling houses the defects in which were remedied without the making of Closing Orders 	40
The number of dwelling houses which after the making of Closing Orders were put into a fit state for human habitation, and ...	0
The geneal character of the defects found to exist	Leaky roofs, closets insanitary, defective floors, etc.

He shall also include any other information and particulars which he may consider desirable in regard to the work of inspection under the said Section.

(Signed) J. E. GORDON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Vital Statistics.

The total number of births registered was 208, and of these 12 were illegitimate children (the birth-rate being 20·4).

The infantile deaths (children under one year) were 13, giving an infantile death-rate of 62·8 per thousand births registered.

The total deaths occurring in the District numbered 98, giving a gross death-rate of 9·6.

The corrected death-rate is arrived at by deducting from the total deaths registered in the District, those of persons normally living elsewhere, and adding to the remainder the deaths of those residents of the District who died beyond its border (17). The corrected death-rate is 11·3.

Birth-rate per 1000 (estimated population)	..	20·4
Gross death-rate	... ..	9·6
Corrected death-rate	... ..	11·3
Infantile death-rate (per 1000 births registered)		
under one year	... ..	62·8
Zymotic death-rate	... ..	0
Phthisis	... ..	0·49
Other tuberculous diseases	... ..	0·19
Measles	... ..	0
Diphtheria	... ..	0
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	... ..	0·29
Influenza	... ..	0·29
Whooping Cough	... ..	0·09
Cancer	... ..	1·17
Heart Disease	... ..	1·76
Respiratory diseases	... ..	1·57

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. E. GORDON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1913 and previous Years. SALISBURY RURAL DISTRICT.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Un-corrected Number.	Nett.		Number	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1908	9765			22·2		10·5				55·2		11·4
1900				22·9		11·8				67		13·3
1910				20·7		8·7				74·2		10·7
1911	10178	207	207	20·5	110	10·8		20	13	62·2	130	12·8
1912		212	212	20·8	107	10·5		17	14	66·03	124	12·1
1913	10178	208	208	20·4	98	9·6	2	17	13	62·8	115	11·3

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1913.

SALISBURY RURAL DISTRICT.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.					Total Cases Notified in each Locality (e.g. Parish or Ward) of the District.									Total Cases removed to Hospital.		
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.				Downton.	Landford.	Redlynch.	West Harnham.	Laverstock.	Standlynch.	Winterslow.	Whiteparish.	Whaddon.		Britford.	Homington.
		1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.													45 and under 65.
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	23	4	15	1	3	...	11	2	9	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	22
Erysipelas	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever	6	...	5	1	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	...	...	...	1	...	6
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	7	...	...	2	2	3	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	38	5	20	5	5	3	12	4	11	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	29

Isolation Hospital :—Salisbury and District Joint Isolation Hospital, provided by Salisbury Urban and Rural Councils, Wilton Urban and Rural Councils, and Amesbury District Council.

TABLE III.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the year 1913.

SALISBURY RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined Ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-residents" in Institutions in the District.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.	
All causes—Certified	115	13	1	1	2	2	11	24	61	1
Scarlet Fever	1
Whooping Cough
Influenza
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)
Other Tuberculous Diseases
Cancer, malignant disease
Meningitis
Organic Heart Disease
Bronchitis
Pneumonia (all forms)
Other diseases of respiratory organs
Diarrhoea and Enteritis
Alcoholism
Nephritis and Bright's Disease
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Pre-mature Birth
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide
Other Defined Diseases
Diseases ill-defined or unknown
Totals	115	13	1	1	2	2	11	24	61	1

TABLE IV.

SALISBURY RURAL DISTRICT.

Infant Mortality.

1913. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 months.	3 months and under 6 months.	6 months and under 9 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All causes—Certified	5	3	8	3	1	1	5
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Convulsions	...	1	1	...	...	1	1
Bronchitis	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Enteritis	...	...	...	2	...	...	2
Premature Birth	5	1	6	...	...	...	...
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
Totals	5	3	8	3	1	1	5

Nett Births in the year

Legitimate

Illegitimate

196.

12.

Nett Deaths in the year of

legitimate infants

illegitimate infants

12

1

TABLE C.

Supplementary Table for Annual Report.

Rural Sanitary District of Salisbury.

Medical Officer of Health—J. E. GORDON.

Date of last appointment—April, 1913.

Term of appointment—Annual.

Sanitary Inspector—A. METHERELL.

Address—The Ridge, Redlynch, Salisbury.

Water Supply.

Any Extension or Change in past year? No.

Is Section 6 of the Public Health (Water) Act, 1878, in all cases enforced in the District? Yes.

Has any action been taken under Sec. 3 of the same Act during the past year; if so, in how many instances? No action taken, it being found unnecessary. The occupied houses have supplies within a reasonable distance

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Extension and Improvements during past year None.

Any System of Treatment adopted? ... None.

Excrement Disposal.

Are Privies and Cess Pits cleansed by Sanitary Staff, by Contractors, or by Tenants? Tenants.

Is Scavenging undertaken by the District Council in any Parishes, if so, in which? No.

Bye-Laws.

Any adopted or sanctioned during past year, if so, please send a copy None.

Are Bye-Laws properly enforced? ... Yes.

Are New Bye-Laws necessary? ... Yes.

For what purpose? ... Slaughter Houses and Dairies and Milkshops Order are being adopted forthwith.

Dairies and Cowsheds Orders.

(See above.)

Regulated Buildings, Trades, etc.

	Number.		Are they In- spected, and if so, by whom.	General Conditions.	Legal Proceed- ings, if any
	Regis- tered.	In- spect'd			
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	...
Houses let in Lodgings	...	...	...	...	...
Canal Boats	...	...	...	...	...
Slaughter Houses	...	10	Yes, by A. Metherell	Fair	None
Bakehouses	24	15	Do.	Majority good	Do.
Dairies	50	18	Do.	Do.	Do.
Cowsheds	102	50	Do.	Do.	Do.
Milkshops	...	...	Do.	Do.	Do.
Offensive Trades	...	2	Do.	Satisfactory	Do.

Deaths.

Please state number of each sex ... 65 Males, 52 Females.
 Number of uncertified deaths ... None.

Births.

Please state number of each sex ... 102 Males, 98 Females.
 Number of illegitimate births ... 4 „ 8 „

Isolation Hospital.

Number of Beds ... 22 Male, 22 Female.
 What Diseases are taken in? ... Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and Enteric
 How many Diseases can be treated at the same time? ... Three.
 Any and what charge to patients? ... Some private patients at 21/- and 42/- weekly.
 Construction of Buildings ... Brick-built.
 Disinfecting Apparatus ... Thresh's Steam Disinfector.

Dwellings.

Number of Houses built during past year 22.
 General character ... Small dwelling-houses chiefly, and brick-built.
 Any overcrowding of persons in houses? Yes; cases are reported to the Council as they are found, and steps are taken to abate the overcrowding.
 Any overcrowding of houses in area? ...
 Any action taken under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, and H. & T. P. Act, 1909 No.
 Any houses closed as unfit for habitation under these Acts? Yes—2.

What Action has been taken in regard to the following matters:—

House to House Inspection	...	Yes—139 inspected.
Seizures of Unsound Food	...	None.
Inspection of Factories and Workshops	22.	
Prosecutions	...	None.

Schools.

Number in District	...	21.
Number closed on account of outbreak of disease		None.

Burial Grounds.

Number in District	...	22.
Any need for extension	...	I do not think so.

Tuberculosis.

What action taken in respect of known cases and deaths?	All cases are notified to M.O.H. and County Tuberculosis Officer and dealt with. Premises occupied by affected persons are disinfected after death.
Any arrangement for free examination of Sputa?	Provided by Council.

Infectious Diseases.

Any and what arrangement for bacteriological examinations for Diphtheria and Enteric Fever?	By arrangement with M.O.H. at expense of Rural District Council.
Any charge made? If so, what charge?	No.
Any and what arrangement for free distribution of Diphtheria Antitoxin?	As above.

Meteorology.

Are any observations taken in or near your District?	I do not think so.
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*Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the
Year 1913 for the Rural District of Salisbury,*
on the Administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901,
in connection with

Factories, Workshops, Workplaces, and Homework.

(1).—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND
WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or
Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
FACTORIES (including Factory Laundries)	2	0	0
WORKSHOPS (including Workshop Laundries)	20	5	0
Total	22	5	0

(2).—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS
AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			No. of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—</i> Want of cleanliness ...	3	3	0	0

(3).—HOME WORK.

Nature of Work.	Outworkers' Lists, Section 107.		
	Lists received from Employers.		
	Sending twice in the year.		
	Lists.	Outworkers.	
		Contractors.	Workmen.
Wearing Apparel— making, etc. ...	I	I	All females. 6

(4).—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register at the end of the year.	Number.
Bakers	24
Smiths	8
Wheelwrights	4
Tailors	2
Dresses and Shirts	7
Harness Makers	2
Carpenters and Joiners	6
Laundries	5
Others	7
Total number of Workshops on Register ...	65

J. E. GORDON,

Medical Officer of Health.

January, 1914.